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INSCRIPTION OF NEBUKADNEZZAR, SON OF NIN-EB-NADIN-ŠUM.

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The well-known king of Babylon, Nebukadnezzar II., who reigned from 604-561, was the son of Nabopolassar. In the fragmentary inscription of the British Museum, Sp. II. 407, of which the text is given here, mention is made of Nabû-kudurri-uṣur king of Babylon, the son of Nin-eb-nadin-šum. As we do not know the genealogy of Nebukadnezzar I., who is mentioned in the Synchronous History as the antagonist of the king Aššur-riš-iši, we might be right in identifying him with the king mentioned in this inscription, and then we may put this king with Prof. Jules Oppert (in his *Real Chronology and the true History of the Babylonian Dynasties*) in the 13th or 12th century B. C. (i. e. 1240-1234 B. C. or after 1123 B. C.), a short time before Tiglath-pileser I.

The fragment remaining is a small part of the tablet, which when complete might have had about 40-50 lines on both sides, and more than half of the lines are broken off at the left hand. It seems to have contained the history of the king Nabû-kudurri-uṣur, and the fragmentary lines show us still some interesting facts, although without the clear historical connection. In l. 2 the tablets of the series "The illumination of Bel" are mentioned, of which many fragments are still extant in the Kuyunjik Collection of the British Museum; apparently they were brought from Babylon (to Assyria?), and l. 4 scribes were instituted and a memorial slab (abnu narû) was put up by Nabû-kudurri-uṣur the son of Nin-eb-nadin-šum, a statue of the Lady of Heaven (ḡalam Bilit šamê) was dedicated with the signs (parḡi-šu) and movements of the heaven (alkakati-šu) written upon it, and put up with tabletsin Babylon. These disconnected lines seem to indicate, that Nabû-kudurri-uṣur built an astronomical observatory, where a copy of the grand astrological work, "The Illumination of Bel," as Prof. Sayce translated the nûru Bel, was kept. The reverse mentions campaigns of the (same?) king, "the people of the land of Hattu in the month Iyyar in the 3d year....Babylon before his soldiers they took....he gathered his troops, in 13 days....they conquered, of the people dwelling in the city Ammananu....their heads he cut off...." It is known, that Nebukadnezzar I. made conquests in the north of Syria; compare H. Winckler's *Geschichte Babyloniens und Assyriens*, page 95.

Inscription of Nebukadnezzar
son of Nin-eb-nadin-šum. Sp. II. 407.

Obverse.

1. 新華米之類

[illegible]

Reverse.

12. ~~SECRET~~

15. 井山矣因各於畢
一通多畢疏工而終乃公
畢矣公井疏一萬畢而多
金終會井畢於下工山而疏
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井委而疏一畢終各委而公
公井疏終工一畢終各委而公

19. 公井疏終工一畢終各委而公
公井疏終工一畢終各委而公
公井疏終工一畢終各委而公
公井疏終工一畢終各委而公

22.